

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 – 4:00pm

Glenwood Recreation Center – 2010 Coliseum Blvd.

PRESENT MEMBERS: Rose Marie Ponton (Chair), Carl Brower, Jr (Vice-Chair), Marc Bush, Zach Crutchfield, Lori Galbreath, Steve Moore, Wesley Vaughn

ABSENT MEMBERS: Ken Free

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Blume, Kathy Chatfield, John Hughes, Greg Jackson, Dan Maxson, Barbara McKenzie, Nasha McCray, Weesie Person, Marcie Richardson, Laurie Thore, Denise Turner, Mary Vigue, Chris Wilson

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Lewis Recreation Center. Rose Marie Ponton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 13, 2010 Commission Meeting were approved as submitted with removal of the incorrect mention of Paul Brown being replaced by Zach Crutchfield.

Recognitions

Ponton introduced new Commission Member, Wesley Vaughn.

Ponton welcomed UNCG students from the Leisure Services Management and Advance Management programs.

Ponton welcomed Denise Turner, Assistant City Manager.

Glenwood Recreation Center Presentation

Michelle Blume, Recreation Center Director, presented the Commission with historical information regarding the center and also events and programs currently held at the center.

OLD BUSINESS

Farmer's Market Recommendations

Ponton stated that per request of City Manager, Rashad Young, this item will be postponed and presented at the next Commission meeting to allow City Council and the City Manager's Office to review the history of the matter.

Marc Bush, Commission Member, emphasized moving forward with this item and not to delay it past the next Commission meeting.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Carl Brower, Jr. and seconded to postpone this item until the next Commission meeting. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Denise Turner, Assistant City Manager, stated that the City Manager respects and appreciates all of the work completed by the Commission and staff. The City Manager's office intention is to address this item immediately as it is a major concern to a number of City Council Members. There will be discussions with City Council regarding this item and it will not be delayed past the next Commission meeting. The Commission should receive a response by the beginning of next week. Turner stated that she will return to the next Commission meeting to give a report.

Cultural Arts Center Fee Proposal

Barbara McKenzie, Cultural Arts Center Coordinator, stated that the Cultural Arts Center currently has 16 non-profit organizations utilizing the facility. During the previous Commission meeting Members were given the Cultural Arts Center fee proposal for consideration.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Carl Brower, Jr. and seconded to adopt the proposed Cultural Arts Center fee proposal. A vote in favor was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Friends of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Foundation

Bob Douglas, Chair, Friends of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Foundation, informed the Commission that the Friends Foundation originated from a presentation given by Charlotte/Mecklenburg County at the Citizen Board Member Forum 5-6 years ago. Douglas stated that those in the past who have contributed to the Parks and Recreation Department had no guarantee of where their funds would be utilized. The Friends Foundation is a 501(c)3 and all donations are tax deductible. The Foundation's main purpose is to collect and use funds where designated. The Foundation is a depository for various project funds, for example, the Fun for All Playground at Hagan-Stone Park in which the Foundation is holding \$65,000 and also \$14,000 for Green Hill Cemetery. The Foundation accepts undesignated funds to be used for Greensboro Parks and Recreation facilities and programs at the Foundation's discretion. The Foundation has an active Board of Directors who meets every other month.

Douglas informed the Commission that the Foundation will benefit from a triathlon at Hagan-Stone Park this spring. The Foundation will receive \$5 per registrant. The Foundation will also benefit from a Friends Golf Day at Bryan Park on May 13 by receiving a percentage of greens and cart fees.

Douglas asked the Commission to help publicize the Foundation and its purpose.

STAFF REPORTS

Bond Project Update

Greg Jackson, Director, informed the Commission that the City of Greensboro has approximately 96 million dollars in bond projects and at some point will be narrowed down. Also, Parks and Recreation projects need to be prioritized.

Nasha McCray, Planning and Project Development Manager, distributed a summary of all bond projects from 2000, 2006, and 2008 (attached). The projects hi-lighted in gray are projects that have a balance to be issued. Staff has not received any direction from City Council when these remaining bonds will be issued.

McCray requested that the Capital Improvement Program committee that was formed at the previous Commission meeting assist with the priority list for the remaining projects and return to the Commission at the next meeting for any further discussion.

Brower inquired about the status of Keeley Park.

McCray replied stating that Phase I includes ball fields. Staff is currently working with sprayground and pond issues. A contract has been awarded although it may need to be modified due to additional work that needs to be done.

Bush inquired about the status of the skate park bonds.

Jackson replied stating that by law bonds have 10 years to be sold. The skate park is a 2006 bond project and these bonds have not been sold.



PRC Priority Bond
Projects Feb...

Budget Update

Dan Maxson, Administrative Services Manager, informed the Commission that they will begin receiving a budget update each month during Commission meetings. Maxson stated that the budget will vary throughout the year from the approved budget by City Council due to carryovers from the previous year and adjustments needing to be made for perhaps additional monies received throughout the year. This is reflected in the revised appropriation column in document Maxson distributed (attached).

Maxson stated that the revenue line item has exceeded revenues for the current year to date (July - January) and has an increase of approximately \$48,000 over the previous year and over \$200,000 compared to 2 years ago. A portion of the increases are due to Guilford County reimbursing Parks and Recreation for Hagan-Stone Park. The increase is also due to admission and charges as a result of the increase in attendance numbers.

Maxson stated that the expenditures for the current fiscal year are over half a million dollars, meaning half a million dollars less has been spent than spent through the previous year, however Parks and Recreation is providing the same level of programs. A majority of the savings (over \$400,000) is due to vacant positions, including the previous vacant Director's position, and the hiring freeze that is in effect.

Maxson stated that under fringe benefits in the year-to-date column the department has spent 65% of this line item this year compared to last year's 68%. Longevity payments are given in the fall which some employees receive a payment and Parks and Recreation pays almost \$600,000 towards a worker's compensation insurance payment. This premium combined with the longevity pay happens in the first half of the fiscal year.

Maxson reported that less has been spent for maintenance and operations this year than in previous years. It is anticipated towards the end of the fiscal year to be in a good financial condition as long as no major unbudgeted items arise.

Maxson mentioned the \$89,000 charge in order to bring recreation centers in compliance.

Jackson added that staff will monitor the potential impact on summer revenue and service to programs due to the frozen positions.



2010 January
Commission Budget..

ADDENDUM

- NONE -

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

- NONE -

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Jackson informed the Commission that each Member has been given a schedule of community budget meetings hosted by City Council and the City Manager's Office. Each Member was given talking points to present during these public meetings. Jackson emphasized that in order to move forward with the 2000 bonds they need be sold as the 10 year deadline is approaching.

Jackson reported that this time every year revenue and expense figures are compared to the previous year to begin moving forward to the next year. If expenses remain the same, a 6 million dollar gap in revenue is predicted for the upcoming fiscal year. This number would shrink over the next couple of months if more revenue is received from the state, property taxes, etc. and will allow for a more accurate deficit figure.

Jackson stated that citizens are looking for free and low cost activities which is what Parks and Recreation offers and is something that not all elected officials recognize.

Jackson suggested that items for Commission Members be distributed electronically verses by mail; however hard copies of pertinent meeting information will be available at meetings. This would reduce mailing cost and supply costs. The Commission will begin receiving an electronic version of a Friday Letter that would perhaps replace monthly reports. This letter will provide weekly updates within Parks and Recreation.

Brower inquired if City Council is receiving Parks and Recreation participation numbers.

Jackson replied stating that they currently do not receive this information; however a request has been made to Denise Turner to distribute the Friday Letter to City Council which would inform them of attendance figures.

Ponton requested each Member attend one of the community budget meetings. Members signed up for the following meetings:

Rose Marie Ponton – various dates
Carl Brower, Jr. – February 11, 2010
Lori Galbreath – February 11, 2010
Wesley Vaughn – February 25, 2010
Zach Crutchfield – February 27, 2010
Steve Moore – March 8, 2010
Ken Free – March 8, 2010
Marc Bush – March 18, 2010

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

Steve Moore informed the Commission that the Ken Burns documentary on National Parks is currently being aired on television.

Zach Crutchfield inquired if the bond should be sold in order as to when they were voted upon and questioned why the aquatic center is moving forward.

Wesley Vaughn responded stating that it is his understanding that the aquatic center is moving forward due to the current low construction cost.

Jackson added that the Parks and Recreation bond for the aquatic center project has not yet been issued.

Brower stated that City Council determines when to sell bonds according to the economy and community desires. The bonds for this project were voted under Parks and Recreation and then given to the Coliseum.

Moore included that the aquatic center is a “pet” project for a few Council Members.

Carl Brower, Jr. stated that he attended the Barber Park Phase II public meeting. The meeting was very well attended. Brower recommended researching any possible events prior to scheduling public meetings to avoid any conflicts with others who may want to attend.

McCray informed the Commission that the next Barber Park public meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2010, a location has not yet been determined.

Marc Bush apologized for not attending the January Commission meeting. Bush welcomed new Director, Greg Jackson. Bush stated that he looks forward to working with Jackson and his assistance in pursuing that Greensboro host the State Games. Bush stated that he is the Manager of the Host Committee at the Coliseum who will be hosting the ACC Women’s and Men’s basketball for the next 6 years. Bush distributed ACC pins to everyone in attendance.

On behalf of citizens' request, **Lori Galbreath** requested an obstacle course for dogs be constructed and located in the BarkPark at Country Park.

Chris Wilson, Parks, Gardens, and Program Support Manager, stated that last year the Commission was presented with the Landmark Project, a connection between the Natural Science Center, National Military Park, Country Park, and surrounding properties. Request for qualifications for a Master Plan have been announced and are expected back in a couple of weeks. This Master Plan would include amenities at Country Park. The public input process would be an excellent opportunity to suggest and discuss such enhancements.

Wesley Vaughn thanked the Commission Chair and staff for the Commission Member orientation and the opportunity to have information prior to serving at a Commission meeting.

Rose Marie Ponton stated that she attended the Barber Park Phase II public meeting. The grand opening ceremony for Barber Park Phase I will be held March 28 at 2:00pm.

With no further business Ponton adjourned the meeting at 4:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation